



# **Memorandum of Agreement between MCC and The Peace Corps**

## **I. Purpose of this Agreement**

This Memorandum of Agreement (Agreement) sets forth a framework for cooperation between the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the Peace Corps to collaborate on complementary program areas, consistent with their respective statutory authority, regulations and programming priorities.

## **II. Common Goal**

A. The mission of the Peace Corps is to promote world peace and friendship, and its work is guided by three goals: (1) to help interested countries meet their need for trained men and women; (2) to promote a better understanding of the people of the United States by the people served ; and (3) to promote a better understanding of other peoples by the people of the United States. Peace Corps Volunteers are assigned to host countries to support activities in education, health, environment, community economic development , youth in development, and agriculture. The Peace Corps seeks to be a partner of choice to address the development needs of host countries and works in partnership with host-country agencies, nongovernmental organizations, international organizations, and local communities.

B. MCC's mission is poverty reduction through the promotion of sustainable economic growth. MCC enters into partnerships (compacts) with selected developing countries to support activities in agriculture, education, energy, gender, health and HIV/AIDS, land tenure, private sector development, sustainable tourism, transportation infrastructure, water, and other areas. MCC supports country-led and country-implemented solutions to achieve measurable results. Each partner country must designate an accountable entity responsible for overseeing compact-financed projects. The accountable entity is generally called the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) for the partner country and is generally staffed and led by partner country nationals.

C. MCC and the Peace Corps actively support programs and initiatives that foster economic growth and build productive capacity in the countries in which they work. MCC and the Peace Corps seek to share their respective strengths, knowledge, and resources to support partner country development initiatives that improve the lives of the world's poor.

D. MCC and the Peace Corps share the belief that coordination of technical resources can significantly enhance their mutual development assistance and poverty reduction goals. Peace Corps Volunteers and Peace Corps Response Volunteers (collectively, “Volunteers”) can play a very important role in providing support for the implementation of compact projects. The assistance provided by Volunteers will aim to strengthen project implementation and build the long-term capacity of partner countries.

### III. Nature of the Cooperation

A. This Agreement continues and amplifies the cooperation between MCC and the Peace Corps that was first formalized in the Memorandum of Agreement signed by the two agencies on September 9, 2010, and applies to cooperation with respect to programs and activities in countries of mutual interest to MCC and the Peace Corps. The purpose of this Agreement is to encourage, broaden, and strengthen cooperation between the two agencies. The Agreement does not preclude cooperation or arrangements between MCC and the Peace Corps or between the Peace Corps and MCAs, or any other related governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, or communities that could otherwise occur in the absence of this Agreement.

B. MCC and the Peace Corps will seek to have appropriately skilled Volunteers assigned to work on activities and programs in countries of mutual interest. Volunteers may be assigned to work with MCAs or related governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and communities involved in or benefitting from the implementation of compact projects. Assignments may vary in scope and duration based upon specific technical assistance and capacity-building needs and the availability of skilled and interested Volunteers. It is expected that assignments under this Agreement will be made as illustratively described below:

1. For assignments of approximately one to two years, Volunteers with the necessary professional experience and technical qualifications may be assigned to provide support in one or more areas, including, but not limited to, education, health, environment, community economic development, youth in development, agriculture, and other related technical areas.
2. For assignments of less than one year, Volunteers may be assigned to help develop, implement, and evaluate training programs, community and public outreach programs, HIV/AIDS prevention programs or management information systems, or to provide other types of technical or capacity-building assistance.

C. In addition, MCC and the Peace Corps will explore opportunities to collaborate on activities related to recruitment of Volunteers and staff.

D. This Agreement does not obligate funds by either MCC or the Peace Corps and is subject to the availability of funds. Neither MCC nor the Peace Corps will have responsibility for any expenses incurred by the other in connection with this Agreement.

E. MCC and the Peace Corps will implement this Agreement in accordance with their respective policies

and procedures.

## IV. Modes of Cooperation

*A. Encouraging Cooperation in the Field.* Cooperation between MCC and the Peace Corps is already ongoing, and additional locally-led cooperation between MCC and the Peace Corps is encouraged under this Agreement in all countries of mutual interest. MCC and the Peace Corps will encourage their personnel in the field to think creatively and flexibly about cooperating locally in the partner country based upon the specific needs of the partner country and the availability of Volunteers.

*B. Peace Corps Involvement in Compact Development.* During the consultation phase of the compact development process for an MCC compact-eligible country, MCC will, when appropriate, consult with the Peace Corps to explore if there are Volunteers working in geographic and technical areas where MCC's proposed compact investment will occur. In addition, MCC and the Peace Corps will explore further opportunities for collaboration during the compact implementation phase, if there is an overlap of geographic and technical areas, priorities and technical skills.

*C. Encouraging the Use of Volunteers.* MCC will encourage MCAs and other appropriate governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and communities (referred to collectively below as "counterpart entities" and individually as "counterpart entity") to be aware of opportunities to use Volunteers in the development, implementation, and evaluation of compact programs and will endeavor to facilitate communication and collaboration between MCC-financed entities and the Peace Corps.

*D. Identification of Positions for Placement of Volunteers.* In a given partner country, it is expected that prospective counterpart entities will determine which of their positions are appropriate for Volunteer assignments and specify the necessary professional and technical qualifications. Counterpart entities will be expected to prepare position descriptions for such positions and to furnish them to Peace Corps posts for review and consideration.

*E. Peace Corps Assignment of Volunteers.* The Peace Corps may assign Volunteers for a direct placement with an MCA or for a complementary placement with other appropriate entities. In either case, the counterpart entity where the Volunteer is assigned will be expected to provide certain Volunteer support costs as the Peace Corps and the counterpart entity may agree. Unless the MCA agrees otherwise in writing, the MCA will not be responsible for the commitments of other entities regarding the placement of Volunteers with such entities.

*F. Memorializing Commitments.* The mutual commitments of the Peace Corps and a counterpart entity regarding support for Volunteers that the counterpart entity engages will be memorialized through a counterpart agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other similar instrument between the Peace Corps and the counterpart entity.

*G. Sustainability.* In MCC compact countries where the Peace Corps also has a program, as part of

compact closeout planning and sustainability strategy, MCC and Peace Corps posts may discuss the geographic and technical overlap of the two agencies' programs and explore ways to collaborate post-compact, if applicable. Where possible, MCC and the Peace Corps, in consultation with the host government where appropriate, will identify specific actions to strengthen benefits to the target population and to ensure the sustainability of the benefits of U.S. government programs.

*H. Senior Management Engagement.* In order to better inform key stakeholders of collaboration between MCC and the Peace Corps, both agencies will explore ways to elevate and advance the collaboration by organizing, as appropriate, joint senior management and official United States Government visits to project sites where Volunteers are collaborating with MCC partners, as well as by jointly participating in conference panels and congressional or congressional-staff delegations, when possible.

*I. Public Relations.* MCC and the Peace Corps will inform congressional constituents and distribute information through their respective agency's media outlets regarding MCC-Peace Corps collaboration. Both agencies will develop plans to meet this objective.

*J. Noncompetitive Eligibility of Peace Corps Volunteers and Staff.* Where appropriate, MCC will seek to make use of the "noncompetitive eligibility" option under Executive Order 11103 for hiring returned Peace Corps Volunteers and to hire Peace Corps staff under section 315.607 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

*K. Joint Working Group.* MCC and the Peace Corps will form a joint working group that, from time to time, will establish and revise strategic and operational guidance to help encourage, broaden, and strengthen cooperation between the Peace Corps and MCC. The guidance will describe strategies and processes to encourage and facilitate the assignment of Volunteers to MCAs, and other counterpart entities. MCC and the Peace Corps will disseminate to their respective staffs in an appropriate form the guidance that will apply to their cooperation. The joint working group from time to time may also review actual cooperation in selected countries to help inform possible future recommendations regarding cooperation between MCC and the Peace Corps.

*L. Joint Reviews.* From time to time, as mutually agreed, MCC and the Peace Corps will jointly review the progress of their cooperation and explore ways to strengthen it.

## **V. Communications**

A. The points of contact for MCC and the Peace Corps for this Agreement will be the persons holding or acting in the following positions (each, a "Point of Contact"):

For MCC:

Kyeh Kim

Principal Deputy Vice President, Department of Compact Operations Millennium Challenge Corporation  
875 Fifteenth Street, NW Washington, DC 20005-2221

[kimk@mcc.gov](mailto:kimk@mcc.gov)

(202) 521-3600

For the Peace Corps: Tonia Wellons

Associate Director, Office of Strategic Partnerships Peace Corps

1111 Twentieth Street, NW Washington, DC 20526

[twellons@peacecorps.gov](mailto:twellons@peacecorps.gov)

(855) 855-1961

Either MCC or the Peace Corps may change its Point of Contact by written notice to the other party.

B. For communications in or regarding a specific partner country, MCC and the Peace Corps may also be represented by the persons holding or acting in the following positions (each, a “Country Representative”):

For MCC: the resident country director (or his or her designee) or, if the compact for the country has not entered into force, the leader of the compact development team.

For the Peace Corps: the country director (or his or her designee) .

## VI. Branding

MCC and the Peace Corps may *only* use the other party’s name, emblem , and logo as approved by the other party in advance in writing.

## VII. Duration, Amendment, and Termination of this Agreement

This Agreement replaces and supersedes the agreement between MCC and the Peace Corps dated September 9, 2010, as amended on September 9, 2013. This Agreement will be in effect from the date of signature by both MCC and the Peace Corps until September 30, 2020, and may be amended or extended by mutual agreement in writing. MCC or the Peace Corps may terminate this Agreement at any time by written notice to the other party.

Signed:

- Millennium Challenge Corporation  
Dana J. Hyde, Chief Executive Officer  
September 1, 2015
- The Peace Corps  
Carolyn Hessler-Radelet, Director

September 1, 2015